THE MINISTER OF STATE IN'THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The year-on-year growth of the six core industries having a bearing on infrastructure is indicated in Table below:

Performance of six industries having a bearing on infrastructure (year-on-year growth in per cent)

	2006-07			2007-08		
Industry	July	August	September	July	August	September
Electricity	8.9	4.1	115	7.5	9.2	4.3
Coal	9.1	0.6	-0.8	1.1	8.7	6.2
Finished Steel	15.0	9.5	10.6	9.6	8.5	10.3
Crude Petroleum	4.1	12.0	9.4	0.9	6.5	-0.7
Refinery Products	12.6	12.1	13.4	4.7	8.2	6.9
Cement	14.0	2.9	16.5	9.0	16.2	5.0
Overall	10.9	6.6	10.6	6.8	9.2	6.0

Production in these industries is governed by available capacity and overall demand and supply situation. The priority given to the creation of physical infrastructure in the Eleventh Five Year Plan is expected to significantly boost the production in these sectors.

New norms for non-life term insurance

200. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRDA has suggested new norms for non-life term insurance; .

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how these are improvements over existing norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Speculative trading in items of daily need

201. SHRl MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of daily need items have risen manifold due to speculative trading;

(b) if so. the measures taken to check speculative trading in daily need items;

(c) whether multinational companies (MNCs) are involved in speculative trading and if so, the action taken against each of them;

(d) the measures taken to lessen the burden of price rise on the common man; and

(e) the arrangements made for enhanced and timely supplies of essential commodities to check further price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Futures markets are a platform for discovery and price risk management. Speculators are an integral part of the commodity ftitures market as they bear the price risk transferred by hedges. The Forward Markets Commission (FMC), which is the commodity fijtures market regulator, under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952, ensures that futures prices are true reflection of supply and demand conditions. The FMC monitors future trading on real time basis and prescribes various regulatory measures such as imposition of limit on open position, daily margins, and limit on daily price variations, etc., to

ensure orderly trading. Multi National Companies are allowed to trade in the commodity futures market through registerd brokers and are subject to Bye laws and Rules of the Commodity Exchanges to ensure orderly trading.

(d) and (e) Containment of price rise of essential commodities remain high on the agenda of the Government Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project

202. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a $ 90 bn. Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) project would be managed by a private company and the Central Government would hold 26 per cent of the equity of the company and six State Governments viz.. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana. Rajasthan. Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh through which the corridor will pass, would each hold 3.83 per cent equity amounting to 23 per cent stake in the company; and

(b) if so, by when a final decision for implementing the project would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE {SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has approved, in-principle, the project outline of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor in August 2007. The approval also covers setting up Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC), corporate entity, for Project Development, coordinating the implementation of the numerous projects and also to raise finances wherever needed. The equity base of DMICDC is Rs. 10 Crores in which 49% is from Government of India and the remaining by Financial Institutions and other infrastructure organizations. Equity contributions in DMICDC by the six States is not included in the present Government approval. DMICDC is under and Apex Monitoring Authority, which has been set with participation of concerned central Ministers and Chief Ministers of the six DMIC States, for overall guidance, planning and approvals.

Granting of foreign currency loans

203. SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: "

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have been granting foreign currency loans, out of the country's forex reserve in its custody, to banks and financial institutions (FIs) for funding the (i) international trade and (ii) import of capital goods (CGs) by their clients;

(b) if so, the salient terms on which such loans are granted by RBI for funding international and import of CGs respectively; and

(c) bank-wise and Fl-wise details of foreign currency loans granted by RBI out of forex reserve showing volumes thereof meant for (i) and (ii) in (a) above by their clients separately during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In the recent past. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not granted foreign currency loans, out of the country's forex reserve in its custody, to banks and financial institutions (FIs) for funding the international trade, import and capital goods (CGs) by their clients. However, loans were given as refmance under the provisions of Section I7(12B) of the RBI Act, l934tobanks/FIs.

(b) Section 17(12 B) authorizes RBI to give loans in foreign currencies to banks/FIs on refmance basis on terms that may be approved by the Central Board. The loans given to State